UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/L.20

Distr.: Limited
27 June 2014

Original: English

**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
First session**
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014

Draft Outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The ministers of environment and heads of delegation gathered at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya on 26 and 27 June 2014:

Recall General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 establishing the United Nations Environment Programme, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of May 31, 2000, the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, declaring the United Nations Environment Programme to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the integrated and coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as reinforced in the Nusa Dua Declaration of February 2010;

Recall also that, from the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, through the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the adoption of Agenda 21, the adoption of the Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20), we have increased our understanding of the importance of the environment in the context of sustainable development, we have strengthened our institutions and we have committed ourselves to action;

Reaffirm, therefore, our commitment to the full implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document, "The future we want", and all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7. We also call for the implementation of section C on the Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development and paragraph 88 on strengthening and upgrading UNEP.

Emphasize, with the foregoing in mind, the historic importance of convening the first universal session of this lead forum and decision-making body to address global environmental challenges and provide overarching policy guidance within the United Nations system, recognizing the fundamental role of the Environment Assembly in promoting the full integration and coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and its potential to identify opportunities and advance solutions for the global environmental agenda;

Call on the international community, and reaffirm our commitment:

- To ensure the full integration of the environmental dimension throughout the international agenda, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for the sustainable development agenda;

- To achieve an ambitious, universal, implementable and realizable post-2015 development agenda that fully integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a coherent, holistic, comprehensive and balanced manner, including comprehensive and action-oriented sustainable development goals with the aim of eradicating poverty, as well as for the protection of the environment and promotion of inclusive equitable, social and economic development in harmony with nature;

To accelerate and support efforts for the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns including through sustainable lifestyles and resource efficiency. We are also committed to accelerate actions, with the support of United Nations Environment Programme, to implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns as a tool for action on SCP, including its section on Means of Implementation;

- To take action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products which has major economic, social and environmental impacts, contributes to damage to ecosystems and rural livelihoods, undermines good governance and the rule of law and threatens national security.

- To undertake urgent actions to address climate change, a persistent crisis that affects all countries and undermines their ability, in particular developing countries, to achieve sustainable development. This requires cooperation by all countries, in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- To continue to work towards the adoption of an ambitious outcome in the form of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties in 2015 in accordance with the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action;

- To ensure the full implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other environmental international and regional commitments in an effective and coordinated manner while promoting synergies among them, acknowledging their positive contribution to sustainable development;

- To reinforce efforts to halt biodiversity loss and combat desertification, drought and land degradation, including through the implementation of existing environmental agreements, and to ensure that ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide their services;

- To foster and encourage the development of genuine and durable partnerships to address environmental challenges faced by small island developing States, in particular the priorities identified for discussion and adoption at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Samoa in September 2014;

Underline the importance of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Environment Assembly at its first meeting (annex 1) [1] and invite the international community to join efforts, including those made by the United Nations Environment Programme, in implementing such outcomes;

Welcome the richness of the debate that took place in the margins of the first session of the Environment Assembly and the contributions of the academic community and civil society experts in various forums to our understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing us, including with regard to the rule of law on the environment, gender, youth, the role of legislators and financing a green economy. We recommend the continuation of this practice;

Commend the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating intergovernmental negotiations on multilateral environmental agreements, including the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and highlight the important positive contribution of the sound management of chemicals and waste to sustainable development;

Acknowledge that a strengthened science-policy interface is of key importance to more efficient and effective policy-making on sustainable development at all levels and emphasize the role

[1] based on resolutions adopted at UNEA 1.

of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing coherent evidence-based knowledge and information on the state of global environment for decision makers, including in the preparation of the Post 2015 development agenda;

Call on the High Level Political Forum, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, within their respective mandates, to give appropriate consideration to the present outcome document and to take its messages further with a view to achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the United Nations and its Member States.